HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

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485 Burmese	485 Burmese	485 Burmese
485 01 p	20 m-voiceless	56 schwa
485 02 p-aspirated	21 n [n-dental][60]	57 a [ash][61] [alpha-unrounded][62]
485 03 b	22 n-voiceless	58 u [upsilon][61]
485 04 t [t-dental][60]	23 n-palatal	59 upsilon-nasalized
485 05 t-aspirated	24 n-palatal-voiceless	60 o [o/u][61] [upsilon-dot][63]
485 06 d	25 eng	61 o-open
485 07 k	26 eng-voiceless	62 yod [c-fricative][64] [yod-nasalized][65]
485 08 k-aspirated	27 l	63 w [w-nasalized][65]
485 09 g	28 l-voiceless	64 w-voiceless[30] (limited)
485 10 t/s-hacek	29 r-flap[30] (limited) [r-fricative] (free)	65 e/i-nasalized
485 11 t/s-hacek-aspirated	30 h	66 o/u-nasalized
485 12 d/z-hacek	31 glottal stop[03]	
485 13 theta [t/theta] (free)		
485 14 eth [d/eth] (free)	51 i [iota][61]	
485 15 s[01]	52 iota-nasalized	
485 16 s-aspirated[01]	53 e [e/i][61]	81 low[02]
485 17 z[01]	54 epsilon	82 high[03 04 05]
485 18 s-hacek	55 ash-nasalized	83 high-creaky voice[04 05]
485 19 m		

485 $a Burmese $b Rangoon Standard $d Tibeto-Burman $e Burma $f 15 million $g Jim Bauman $g Marilyn Vihman (review) $g John Crothers (editor)

485 $a Okell, John $b 1969 $c A Reference Grammar of Colloquial Burmese $g London: O.U.P.

485 $a **INTONATION** $A Intonation is not exhaustively treated in the grammar. Okell mentions "an overall drop in pitch towards the end of a group, especially when the speaker is concluding; or a rise at the end of a group when he has more to add." (p.11-12)

485 $a **LONG CONSONANTS** $A Assimilation of /glottal stop/ to a following syllable initial consonant produces a number of long consonants, including all consonants except the voiced obstruents (/glottal stop/ assimilates to the position but not the voicing), the voiceless sonorants (/glottal stop/ may be omitted) and /theta/ (/glottal stop/ becomes [t-dental] before it). (p.7)

485 $a **REDUPLICATION** $A Okell describes two no longer productive morphological devices of Burmese as "rhyming" and "chiming." (p.116-118) Rhyming reproduces the vocalic nucleus and tone of the head syllable with some initial consonant different, but not predictable, from the initial of the head. Chiming, on the other hand, alliterates only the initial consonant of the head syllable, the vocalic nucleus and/or tone being different. Both of these processes suggest some association with the very productive use of reduplication in Burmese.

485 $a **STRESS** $A Particles are often unstressed. (p.12) Also in compounds the last (or only) syllable of the first element is frequently "weakened" and loses distinctive tone. This could be called lack of stress, though Okell does not use the term "stress" in reference to it.

(p.14ff)

485 $a **SYLLABLE** $A C(G)V(G)(C)$A VG includes the diphthongs listed in the segment inventory plus combinations of /a/ or /ash-nasalized/ and a glide. Okell describes the vowels in terms of occurrence in open and closed syllables, the latter including both syllables closed by /glottal stop/, and syllables containing a nasalized vowel diphthong. (The nasalized vowels and diphthongs are thus represented as having the same articulatory qualities as the vocalic allophones occurring with /glottal stop/.) Additional closed syllables are created when, "in closely linked syllables, or in rapid speech," /glottal stop/ is "assimilated to the initial consonant of the following syllable," or "a nasal consonant homorganic with the initial consonant of the following syllable" is inserted, following a nasalized syllable nucleus. (p.12f)

485 $a **TONE** $A domain of tone: syllable $A "The pitch relationship between neighboring syllables may be affected by factors other than syllable tone," e.g., stress and intonation. (p.11)

485 01 $A Okell does not specify the place of articulation for /s/ and /z/, but gives the English equivalents as the "s" in "sore" and the "z" in "zone." (p.9)

485 02 $A The pitch of the /low/ tone "may rise (e.g. before a pause), or fall slightly (e.g. at the end of a sentence)." (p.11)

485 03 $A Syllables ending in /glottal stop/ have [high] tone, without the breathy quality generally possible with /high/ tone, and with shorter vowels of different quality from those of open syllables. Okell analyzes such syllables as having an independent toneme "stop tone." They are treated here as having /high/ tone. (See p.4, 5, 6, 11, 12.)

485 04 $A The high tones may fall at the end of a sentence or before /low/ tone. /high/ with syllable final /glottal stop/ and /high-creaky voice/ "often fall more sharply than" /high/. (p.11)

485 05 $A /high-creaky voice/ tone and /high/ tone with syllable final /glottal stop/ may be lower than surrounding /high/ tones, but the distinction from /low/ tone is reinforced by other features, creaky voice in the first case, in the second by the /glottal stop/, if present, or associated changes in vowel quality, or lack of voicing in a following consonant. (p.12)

485 30 $A /r-flap/ "is rare...and usually occurs only in some speakers' pronunciation of a few words...[and] in Pali loans...and English loans.... Other speakers often use /yod/ or /l/ instead...." /w-voiceless/ "is also rare, and most of the few words in which it sometimes occurs have alternative pronunciations which are more commonly heard." (p.14)

485 60 $A /t/ and /n/ are realized as dentals before the interdentals. (p.12f)

485 61 $A The high vowels are lowered, the upper-mid vowels are diphthongized, and /a/ is fronted in closed syllable (i.e., before /glottal stop/). (p.5f)

485 62 $A /a/ is backed after /w/. (p.6)

485 63 $A /o/ is fronted and raised after /yod/. (p.6)

485 64 $A /yod/ is realized as [c-fricative] after /p-aspirated/. (p.14)

485 65 $A The glides are nasalized after a nasalized vowel. (p.5f)